

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method comprising:  
2 determining the node ID information of a second node  
3 device of a multi-node computer system; and  
4 storing the node ID information of the second node device  
5 on a storage device located on a first node device of the  
6 multi-node computer system;  
7 wherein the first node device is connected to the second  
8 node device, and the second node device includes a storage  
9 device containing node ID information for a third node device  
10 connected to the second node device.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 retrieving, from the storage device of the second node  
3 device, the node ID information for the third node device.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
2 storing the node ID information for the third node device  
3 on the storage device located on the first node device;  
4 wherein the third node device includes a storage device  
5 containing node ID information for a fourth node device  
6 connected to the third node device.

1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
2 retrieving, from the storage device of the third node  
3 device, the node ID information for the fourth node device.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:  
2 storing the node ID information for the fourth node  
3 device on the storage device located on the first node device;

4 wherein the fourth node device includes a storage device  
5 containing node ID information for a fifth node device  
6 connected to the fourth node device.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the node ID information is  
2 specified on a node ID specification device located on the  
3 second node device.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node  
2 ID information includes retrieving the node ID information  
3 from the node ID specification device of the second node  
4 device.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node  
2 ID information includes transmitting the node ID information  
3 stored on the node ID specification device to the first node  
4 device.

10559-636001 /12340

1 9. A method comprising:

2 determining node ID information of a first node device of  
3 a multi-node computer system; and

4 storing the node ID information on a storage device  
5 located on a second node device of the multi-node computer  
6 system, wherein the second node device is connected to the  
7 first node device.

1 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

2 allowing a third node device of the multi-node computer  
3 system to access the node ID information stored on the storage  
4 device of the second node device.

1 11 The method of claim 9 wherein the node ID information is  
2 specified on a node ID specification device located on the  
3 first node device.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification  
2 device is one or more jumper pins.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification  
2 device is one or more DIP switches.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification  
2 device is a read-only memory.

1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining the node  
2 ID information includes retrieving the node ID information  
3 from the node ID specification device of the first node  
4 device.

1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining the node  
2 ID information includes transmitting the node ID information  
3 stored on the node ID specification device to the second node  
4 device.

10559-636001

1 17. A computer program product residing on a computer  
2 readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when  
3 executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

4 determine the node ID information of a second node  
5 device of a multi-node computer system; and

6 store the node ID information of the second node  
7 device on a storage device located on a first node device  
8 of the multi-node computer system;

9 wherein the first node device is connected to the  
10 second node device, and the second node device includes a  
11 storage device containing node ID information for a third  
12 node device connected to the second node device.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said  
2 computer readable medium is a read-only memory.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said  
2 computer readable medium is a hard disk drive.

1 20. A processor and memory configured to:

2 determine the node ID information of a second node  
3 device of a multi-node computer system; and  
4 store said node ID information of said second node  
5 device on a storage device located on a first node device  
6 of said multi-node computer system;  
7 wherein said first node device is connected to said  
8 second node device, and said second node device includes  
9 a storage device containing node ID information for a  
10 third node device connected to said second node device.

1 21. The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said  
2 processor and memory are incorporated into a network server.

1 22. The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said  
2 processor and memory are incorporated into a workstation.

10559-636001

1 23. A node ID discovery process comprising:

2 a node ID determination process for determining the  
3 node ID information of a second node device of a multi-  
4 node computer system; and

5 a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
6 information of said second node device on a storage  
7 device located on a first node device of said multi-node  
8 computer system;

9 wherein said first node device is connected to said  
10 second node device, and said second node device includes  
11 a storage device containing node ID information for a  
12 third node device connected to said second node device.

1 24. The node ID discovery process of claim 23 further  
2 comprising:

3 a remote node device retrieval process for  
4 retrieving, from said storage device of said second node  
5 device, said node ID information for said third node  
6 device;

7 wherein said node ID storage process stores said  
8 node ID information for said third node device on said  
9 storage device located on said first node device.

1 25. A node ID discovery process comprising:

2 a node ID determination process for determining the  
3 node ID information of a first node device of a multi-  
4 node computer system; and

5 a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
6 information on a storage device located on a second node  
7 device of said multi-node computer system;

8 wherein said second node device is connected to said  
9 first node device.

1 26. The node ID discovery process of claim 25 further  
2 comprising:

3 an information access process for allowing a third  
4 node device of said multi-node computer system to access  
5 said node ID information stored on said storage device of  
6 said second node device.

10559-636001-12340



1 27. A node ID discovery system comprising:

2 a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;  
3 a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;  
4 a scalable node controller connected to one of said  
5 ports;

6 at least one microprocessor connected to said  
7 scalable node controller;

8 a node ID determination process for determining the  
9 node ID information of said multi-port switch; and

10 a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
11 information of said multi-port switch on a storage device  
12 located on said scalable node controller;

13 wherein said multi-port switch includes a storage  
14 device containing node ID information for said I/O hub  
15 controller.

1 28. The node ID discovery system of claim 27 further  
2 comprising:

3 a remote node device retrieval process for  
4 retrieving, from said storage device of said multi-port  
5 switch, said node ID information for said I/O hub  
6 controller;

7 wherein said node ID storage process stores said  
8 node ID information for said I/O hub controller on said  
9 storage device located on said scalable node controller.

1 29. A node ID discovery system comprising:

2 a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;  
3 a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;  
4 a scalable node controller connected to one of said  
5 ports;

6 at least one microprocessor connected to said  
7 scalable node controller;

8 a node ID determination process for determining the  
9 node ID information of said I/O hub controller; and

10 a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
11 information of said I/O hub controller on a storage  
12 device located on said multi-port switch.

1 30. The node ID discovery system of claim 29 further  
2 comprising:

3 an information access process for allowing a  
4 scalable node controller to access said node ID  
5 information stored on said storage device of said multi-  
6 port switch.